

## Pastoral Newsletter



Welcome to our first Pastoral Newsletter.

At Richard de Clare we know that the children's well-being is extremely important. We believe that every child matters and that their physical, emotional and social needs play an important role in their development. We wanted to share with you some of the pastoral work that takes place in the school.

### How are we supporting your child in school?

To enable us to support the children in the school we have set up a Pastoral Team, who are available everyday for those children who may be struggling with issues such as bereavements, home life issues and friendships. Mrs Claridge and Mrs Chapman are our School Pastoral Support officers. They are trained to support children and promote their well-being.

Please contact this team via the school office if your child has emotional issues that you feel need addressing.

### What else do we do in school to support your child and ensure they are safe?

We promote positive behaviour throughout the school by using Class Dojo. Children are given rewards for good manners, good behaviour and achievements in their schoolwork. A Dojo Champion is announced every week. An atmosphere of positivity exists in every classroom. If you need support logging into Class Dojo please email the office.



However, we realise that not all children are perfect all the time and therefore we have a behaviour management in place that runs across the school. This is our levels system. This system works in a way that is easy for the children to understand. If a child misbehaves:

A warning is given

**Level 1 and 2:** If the child continues to misbehave they are placed on 'Level 1- yellow'. If this continues a 'Level 2' is given.

*Usually a level 1 is enough to ensure that the child does the right thing. We consider a Level 1 and 2 to be a minor offences which is why we usually do not inform parents.*

**Level 3:** If these warnings are not heeded a 'level 3' is given.

**Level 4:** If this is given a member of Senior Leadership will be called. The child will be asked to speak with this leader and the child will be encouraged to complete their work and then return to the classroom. Parents are informed so that they realise that their child has not made the right choice.

Through using our rewards system (Class Dojo) and our behaviour system we have created a happy and productive place to learn.

### Personal Development

The Secrets of Success are an idea developed by Chris Quigley. We have embraced and adapted these ideas to promote personal development and positive attitudes to learning. We are committed to developing the ability of children to learn effectively, so they are equipped to fully embrace and succeed in our ever-changing society.

We are working hard to ensure our children have excellent attitudes and behaviour towards their own learning. We want our children to be highly motivated and engaged, to have high expectations of themselves and be ambitious, wanting to achieve success.

We want to remove any barriers to their learning and to develop their brain power. Learning brains make smarter decisions and happier communities! We are very fortunate to have a great pastoral team that will be here to support the children and families where barriers exist.

There are 8 Secrets to Success which we promote through assemblies, through our PSHE curriculum and through our reward system. Children are rewarded with dojo's for demonstrating these key attributes.

The steps to success that we promote are; 1. Try new things, 2. Work hard, 3. Concentrate, 4. Push yourself, 5. Imagine, 6. Improve, 7. Understand others, 8. Don't give up.

**We have linked these to different characters**

Meet our Richard de Clare 'Secrets of Success' Dojo guides:



**Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) / Relationship, Sex and Health Education (R,S,H,E)**

This important aspect of the curriculum is taught on a weekly basis. Through this subject, children develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy, safe and prepared for the future. You can find information about the new RSHE curriculum on the school website following this link: <https://www.richarddeclare.com/parents/rse-pshe>

**British Values**

British Values are developed and promoted throughout our school and within our curriculum. We want all our children to become valued members of society who treat others with respect and are prepared for life in Modern Britain.

**The British Values**

The Rule of law

Democracy

Individual Liberty

Mutual respect

Tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs.

**Enhanced communication between the Pastoral Team and Staff**

Sometimes in school staff notice issues that need to be picked up by the Pastoral team. This information is written on Lilac Forms. The Pastoral Team follow this up, giving support and guidance. Many of these issues involve supporting children to make friends and encouraging children to play in a fair and safe way. If your child talks about lilac forms this does not mean they have definitely done something wrong; it is just a way of recording information when we are not near a computer.

**Lunch Time**



To support the children at lunchtime we have spent a lot of money to buy equipment will keep them occupied and they really enjoy using. This encourages children to understand the importance of sharing. This includes large connect 4 sets, limbo poles hoops and balls. The children enjoy playing with this equipment and use it imaginatively in their games.

The Midday Assistants also award Dojos for good behaviour and helpfulness throughout the lunch hour which are added to the classroom totals. This idea,



which originated from a Midday Assistant, has been a huge success across the whole school.

### How can you help support the school to develop the children's positive well being?

- Please communicate with us. If you feel that your child is struggling and their well-being is being effected then please ring and ask to speak to a member of the Pastoral Team. If they are unable to take the call immediately, they will endeavour to get back to you as quickly as possible.
- Please be aware that all children fall in and out of friendship. We take this sort of thing seriously and give time to children who need to talk about their friendships. Sometimes however the children are best friends again the following day! Please be mindful of this and encourage your child to think about their arguments and help them to resolve them. Contact the Pastoral Team if you have any concerns.

### How can the Pastoral Team help your child?

The Pastoral team are here to help children if they have any major changes in their home life such as family illness. Please talk to the us if you think your child will be upset by the news. We can work with you to help support your child and if necessary involve other agencies.



At Richard de Clare we do not tolerate bullying. We work with children in school to teach them how important it is to treat others with respect. We also want to make sure that the children understand the difference between falling out with friends and bullying. It is important that children know how to ask for help if they need it. In school we encourage them to talk to Mrs Claridge and Mrs Chapman and to find them if they need help. The children can also ask their teachers for this support if necessary. The support they will receive is obviously different if they have had an argument with a friend compared to being repeatedly bullied. The definition of bullying is:

*'Bullying is usually defined as repeated behaviour which is intended to hurt someone either emotionally or physically, and is often aimed at certain people because of their race, religion or sexual orientation or any other aspect such as appearance or disability.'*

### Emotional First Aid

We also offer emotional first aid in school. Mrs Claridge will offer regular sessions to your child so they can talk about their feelings. Please contact Mrs Claridge via the school office if you feel this type of support will benefit your child.

**The Pastoral Team are a real asset at Richard de Clare. They support our children in so many ways to develop as resilient individuals.**

Equally, there are many more supportive organisations available if you or your child needs support. Please see the links below as they may be the contacts you need. The emotional well-being section of our website also has useful links.

[www.essex.familywellbeing.co.uk](http://www.essex.familywellbeing.co.uk)

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/>

<http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/advice-parents>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

